

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 /055 W
-----120291 290650Z /21

R 280830Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL OPORTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1124
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMCONSULATE PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 0210

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT PO ECON
SUBJECT: CIP FOCUSES ON EFFECTS OF EEC MEMBERSHIP

REF: OPORTO 0137

1. PLANS FOR LISBON CONGRESS. IN A JULY 21 CALL ON AMCONSULATE OFFICER, ANGELO LUDGERO SILVA MARQUES, PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF CIP (CONFEDERATION OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRY) AND PRESIDENT OF THE METALS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION OF THE NORTH, DISCUSSED TENTATIVE PLANS FOR A MAJOR CIP CONFERENCE THIS FALL. TO BE STYLED "THE FIRST CONGRESS OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES," THE MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN FOUR SEPARATE HOTELS IN LISBON IN LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER. CAP (PORTUGUESE AGRICULTURE CONFEDERATION) IS CO-SPONSORING THE EVENT. IT IS DESIGNED TO BE A FOLLOW-ON TO THE MAY 27 OPORTO MEETING OF PORTUGUESE INDUSTRIES IN DEFENSE OF PRIVATE INITIATIVE (REFTEL), WHICH MARQUES DESCRIBED AS "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL."

2. THE AIM OF THE CONGRESS. THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THE CONGRESS WILL BE ON PORTUGAL'S ENTRY INTO THE EEC AND ON WHAT CIP PERCEIVES TO BE THE THREAT POSED BY SUCH ENTRY TO SMALL AND
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MEDIUM SIZED INDUSTRIES. MARQUES NOTED THAT IN MANY RESPECTS THE CONGRESS WILL BE AIMED AT A FOREIGN AUDIENCE AND, TO THIS END, VARIOUS HIGH RANKING EEC AND EFTA OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS PRESIDENT EANES, HAVE BEEN INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. HE DID NOT SAY WHETHER ANY HAD ACCEPTED.

3. THE PATTERN OF CIP INITIATIVES. CIP'S EVOLVING PLANS FOR

THE CONGRESS COMPLEMENT THE ORGANIZATION'S JULY 25 LISBON PRESS CONFERENCE, IN WHICH IT STATED THAT THE IMPACT OF PORTUGAL'S EEC ENTRANCE ON SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESSES HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY DISCUSSED. IT ALSO SQUARES WITH CIP'S CONVICTION THAT THOSE INDUSTRIES WOULD SUFFER MOST FROM COMMON MARKET MEMBER-

SHIP AND THAT PORTUGAL'S ENTRY WOULD BE "INCOHERENT ADVENTURISM" WITHOUT A NEW GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL POLICY. FINALLY, THE LISBON CONGRESS APPEARS TO BE THE DOMESTIC COMPLEMENT TO CIP'S PROPOSED PARTICIPATION IN AN OCTOBER ROME COLOQUIUM ON "THE FUTURE OF SMALL AND MEDIUM INDUSTRY IN AN ENLARGED EUROPEAN COMMUNITY."

4. COMMENT. AT LAST MAY'S OPORTO MEETING, CIP ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A "MAJOR CONGRESS" IN OCTOBER OF ALL INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE. AT THAT TIME, NO MENTION WAS MADE OF TYING THE CONGRESS TO EEC MEMBERSHIP. APPARENTLY BUOYED BY THE SUCCESS OF THE MAY MEETING, CIP INTENDS TO BROADEN ITS AUDIENCE WITH FOREIGN INITIATIVES (ROME COLOQUIUM) AND LOCAL INITIATIVES WITH FOREIGN IMPLICATIONS (LISBON CONGRESS). CLEARLY, CIP'S ULTIMATE AUDIENCE IS DOMESTIC. IT PERCEIVES THAT IT CAN INFLUENCE EEC OFFICIALS INTO POSITING PORTUGUESE COMMON MARKET ENTRY ON DOMESTIC POLICY REFORM. WHETHER CIP CAN SUCCEED IN THIS MISSION IS CONJECTURAL AT BEST. HOWEVER, THE LISBON CONGRESS SHOULD
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PROVE TO BE A POPULAR AND VOCIFEROUS EVENT, IF THE OPORTO MEETING IS ANY PRECURSOR. ALTHOUGH ADMISSION WILL BE BY INVITATION ONLY, MARQUES IS EDGY ABOUT SECURITY. CIP CONSIDERED HOLDING THE CONGRESS IN OPORTO BUT DECIDED ON LISBON BECAUSE OF ITS LARGER FACILITIES AND THE LIKELIHOOD OF BETTER PRESS COVERAGE. HARRINGTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978OPORTO00210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780311-0672
Format: TEL
From: OPORTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978079/aaaaahqc.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fa5d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 OPORTO 137
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2100637
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIP FOCUSES ON EFFECTS OF EEC MEMBERSHIP
TAGS: PINT, ECON, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/fa5d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014